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Stripping military bases of Confederate names stirs passions

BLACKSTONE, Va. (AP) — Civil War history casts a long shadow in Virginia, the birthplace of Confederate generals, scene of their surrender and now a crossroad of controversy over renaming military bases that honor rebel leaders. In and around Blackstone, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Richmond, that shadow can stir passions when talk turns to nearby Fort Pickett. Some are troubled by Congress requiring the Pickett name be dropped as part of a wider scrubbing of military base names that commemorate the Confederacy or honor officers who fought for it. In all, the names of at least nine Army bases in six states will be changed.

Others here say it's high

time to drop the names. "Change them!" says Nathaniel Miller, a Black member of the town council who was stationed at Pickett after he returned from Vietnam in 1973. "It should have happened a long time ago," he says, because the names are a reminder of slavery and a period in American history when Black people had no voice. Fort Pickett's namesake is Maj. Gen. George E. Pickett, best remembered for a failed Confederate assault at Gettysburg that became known as Pickett's Charge. He was a Virginia native and a West Point graduate who resigned his U.S. Army officer commission shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861.

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This Oct. 19, 2021, photo shows a Confederate monument in front a county courthouse in Nottoway County, Va.

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Continued from Front

The push to rename Fort Pickett and other bases is part of a national reckoning with centuries of racial injustice, triggered most recently by the May 2020 police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. For years, the military defended the naming of bases after Confederate officers; as recently as 2015 the Army argued that the names did not honor the rebel cause but were a gesture of reconciliation with the South. Congress easily agreed last year to compel the name changes to remove what are seen by many as emblems of human bondage and Black oppression.

Reflecting a shift in the military's thinking, Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has spoken forcefully about a legacy of Black pain reflected in Confederate names at Army bases where today at least 20% of soldiers are Black. He said those names can be reminders to Black soldiers that the rebel officers fought for an institution that may have enslaved their ancestors.

Milley told a House committee in June 2020 the Confederacy doesn't deserve to be commemorated in this way.

"It was an act of rebellion, it was an act of treason at the time, against the Union, against the Stars and Stripes, against the U.S. Constitution," he said. "And those officers turned their back on their oath. Now, some have a different view of that. Some think it's heritage. Others think it's hate." No one around Blackstone seems to know why the government picked the Pickett name in the first place. The 1942 dedication ceremony for what originally was called Camp Pickett, attended by the general's descendants, was held on July 3 to coincide with the



In this Oct. 20, 2021, photo Greg Eanes, a retired Air Force colonel and resident of Crewe, Va., poses for a photo at Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park in Rice, Va.

Associated Press

79th anniversary of his Gettysburg charge. An Associated Press account of the ceremony quoted Virginia Gov. Colgate Darden saying the story of Pickett's Charge "will live forever as an epic of superb courage" that made him a Virginia "immortal."

Some folks, like Greg Eanes, an Air Force veteran who grew up in the nearby town of Crewe, see removing the Pickett name as disrespecting the rebels and their descendants.

"In my opinion, it is nothing less than cultural genocide, albeit with a velvet glove," Eanes says, standing beside a still-visible Confederate trench on a battlefield in an adjacent county. "The South has a unique history. Many of its people have ancestors and family members who were in the Confederate armies. It would be wrong, in my opinion, to dismiss — just arbitrarily dismiss — their concerns."

Still, stripping Fort Pickett of its Confederate connection is hardly a hot topic around here.

"There was probably a time in my life when this would have gotten me riled up," says Billy Coleburn, 52, a Blackstone native who publishes the local newspaper and is mayor of the town of about 3,500 residents.

"The times change," he adds.

Local innkeepers Jim and Christine Hasbrouck applaud the removal of Confederate generals' names. "We need to stop putting them on a pedestal," says Jim.

Fort Pickett is used mainly by the Virginia National Guard. Situated in what is known as Southside Virginia, it is roughly halfway between Richmond, former capital of the Confederacy, and Appomattox, where Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his Confederate forces in 1865.

This is a heavily Republican area that voted for Donald Trump over Joe Biden by 57% to 42% last November and also favored Trump over Hillary Clinton four years earlier by a 55% to

42% margin. Reminders of the Civil War are not hard to find here; up the road among groves of pine, elm, maple and oak is Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park, scene of a series of battles on April 6, 1865, in which Confederate forces — including a unit commanded by Pickett — were defeated. Three days later, Lee surrendered at Appomattox.

Congress last year created a federal commission to recommend new names for at least nine Army bases named for Confederate officers, including three in Virginia. The others are in North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas. The law was passed over the objection of Trump, who argued that renaming disrespects those who trained at the bases.

Two active Navy ships also will be renamed. The USNS Maury, an oceanographic survey ship, was named for Matthew Fontaine Maury, a naval officer and scientist who resigned to join the Confederates. The cruiser

USS Chancellorsville was named for the 1863 Confederate victory at Chancellorsville, Virginia.

Tom Wilkinson, a Blackstone resident and retired Army colonel who commanded Fort Pickett from 2008 to 2012, says he accepts the renaming decision but considers it a mistake.

"If we could look back in hindsight, I would say leave it alone," Wilkinson says. "Because what's next? Are you going to change the names of streets throughout the United States?"

In fact the post-George Floyd debate over racial injustice does extend beyond military base names. Pickett, for example, is a name that stirs controversy as far away as Washington state. In 2019 the Bellingham city council voted to remove the Pickett name from a bridge that troops under his command built during his establishment of a frontier post called Fort Bellingham in the 1850s.

A hotter topic here in Nottoway County is a November referendum on whether to relocate a Confederate war monument that has stood in front of the county courthouse since 1893.

Fort Pickett is among the last bases to be visited by members of the federal Naming Commission created by Congress. In their other visits, the commissioners were generally well received by communities, although some people "took the opportunity to vent a little," according to Michelle Howard, a retired Navy admiral who heads the commission, which will visit Pickett soon.

Aside from his decision to take up arms against the federal government, Pickett's military record is the subject of conflicting interpretation by historians. But it's generally agreed that his performance was spotty at best. □

Ammon Bundy: Report on far-right group undercounted members

By REBECCA BOONE

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — The founder of a far-right anti-government group says a report estimating the organization's fast growth over the past year undercounted by half. Ammon Bundy took issue with the Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights report, saying People's Rights is actually much larger and more of a network than an official organization.

The report, released last week, found that the organization has grown by roughly 53% in the past year to more than 33,000 members, rapidly expanding nationwide and making inroads into Canada.

"The IREHR report is drastically inaccurate. Not sure where they pulled their info from," Bundy wrote in an email on Saturday. People's Rights now had 62,337 members as of Saturday, he said.

"I'm glad they under reported so the FBI does not think we are too much of a threat to 'democracy,'" Bundy wrote. "If we keep growing the way we are the FBI may get jealous and throw me in jail for no reason again."



In this April 3, 2021, file photo, Ammon Bundy speaks to a crowd of about 50 followers in front of the Ada County Courthouse in downtown Boise.

Associated Press

Bundy — who started People's Rights amid a wave of backlash against public health measures taken at the start of the coronavirus pandemic — is best known for leading a group of armed activists in the occupation of an Oregon wildlife refuge in 2016. But Bundy was acquitted of all federal charges in that case by an Oregon jury. In 2014, Bundy, several brothers and his father led an armed standoff in Nevada with Bureau of Land Man-

agement agents who attempted to confiscate his father's cattle for grazing on public land without a permit. The Nevada criminal case against Bundy ended in a mistrial, but he spent nearly two years behind bars awaiting the resolution of the two court cases.

At the start of last year, People's Rights had just under 22,000 members nationally, according to an earlier report by IREHR and the Montana Human

Right's Network. IREHR Research Director Chuck Tanner said the organization's political ideology centers on pre-Civil War interpretations of the U.S. Constitution and Christian nationalism.

"What People's Rights does is spread really radical ideas about overturning civil rights in the United States," Tanner said last week. "This is a broad-based, anti-Democratic and bigoted social movement."

In a phone interview late Friday afternoon, Bundy

said People's Rights is more of a network than an organization, and claimed the network doesn't profess any ideology other than the principals spelled out at the start of the Declaration of Independence.

"It's a network of individuals that are looking for a way to secure their liberty, but other than giving them tools of how to do that, each area is completely on their own to be able to do whatever they decide to communicate, even whatever they decide to do," Bundy said. "There's very few restrictions that we have placed upon them."

According to the People's Rights website, the network seems akin to an emergency militia service, with members agreeing to help defend each other against "government criminals."

"Who would you call right now if you needed help defending your rights against a government agency?" the website asks readers. It goes on to suggest that things such as vaccination mandates and child protection investigations might be reasons that the network would be activated in a "call to action." □

Officials: Iran behind drone attack on U.S. base in Syria

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials say they believe Iran was behind the drone attack last week at the military outpost in southern Syria where American troops are based.

Officials said Monday the U.S. believes that Iran resourced and encouraged the attack, but that the drones were not launched from Iran. They were Iranian drones, and Iran appears to have facilitated their use, officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss details that have not been made public.

Officials said they believe the attacks involved as many as five drones laden with explosive charges, and that they hit both the U.S. side of al-Tanf garrison and the side where Syrian opposition forces stay.

There were no reported in-

juries or deaths as a result of the attack.

U.S. and coalition troops are based at al-Tanf to train Syrian forces on patrols to counter Islamic State militants. The base is also located on a road serving as a vital link for Iranian-backed forces from Tehran all the way to southern Lebanon and Israel.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby declined to provide details when asked about the report during a news conference Monday. He called it a "complex, coordinated and deliberate attack" and said the U.S. has seen similar ones before from Shia militia groups that are backed by Iran. But he would not go into specifics and said he had no update on the munitions used in the attack.

Kirby also declined to say if

troops were warned ahead of time or whether the U.S. intends to make a military response.

"The protection and security of our troops overseas remains a paramount concern for the secretary," Kirby said, referring to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, "and that if there is to be a response, it will be at a time and a place and a manner of our choosing, and we certainly won't get ahead of those kinds of decisions."

Pro-Iran media outlets have been saying that the attack on Tanf was carried out by "Syria's allies" — an apparent reference to Iran-backed groups — in retaliation for an attack days earlier near the historic Syrian town of Palmyra. Israel has been blamed for the attack, but U.S. officials say



Pentagon spokesman John Kirby speaks during a media briefing at the Pentagon, Monday, Oct. 25, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

America was not involved with it.

"You can consider that the strike on Tanf was an implementation" of previous promises by Syrian allies to retaliate for Palmyra, according to an official with the so-called Axis of Resis-

tance, an anti-Western political-military alliance that includes Iran, Syria, Hezbollah and other groups fighting alongside Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces. The al-Tanf attack came in a period of rising tensions with Iran. □

Lawyer: Initial autopsy inconclusive on Laundrie death cause

By CURT ANDERSON

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) —

The initial autopsy on the remains of Brian Laundrie did not uncover a cause of his death and a more intensive examination will be done, a Laundrie family lawyer said Monday.

Laundrie's skeletal remains found in a Florida nature preserve were positively identified last week using dental records, according to the FBI. Laundrie was the subject of a manhunt for more than a month as investigators searched for clues in the slaying of his girlfriend, Gabby Petito, during their cross-country van trip together.

Steve Bertolino, the Laundries' attorney, said in text messages Monday that he was told by police the autopsy by the Sarasota County medical examiner did not produce concrete results on Brian Laundrie's death.



This Aug. 12, 2021 file photo from video provided by the Moab, Utah, Police Department shows Brian Laundrie talking to a police officer after police pulled over the van he was traveling in with his girlfriend, Gabrielle "Gabby" Petito, near the entrance to Arches National Park in Utah.

Associated Press

"I was told the manner and cause of death were not determined and the remains were sent to an anthropologist (for) further evaluation," Bertolino said. The medical examiner's office declined comment Monday, as did the FBI office

fice in Denver that is leading the probe.

Eventually, Laundrie's remains will be cremated and no funeral is planned by his family, Bertolino said. No information has yet been released on what investigators found in a back-

pack and notebook found with Laundrie's remains.

Petito, 22, was discovered slain last month on the edge of Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, one of the places the young couple had visited on the trip they documented through

social media videos.

An autopsy in Wyoming concluded Petito died by strangulation and that it was a homicide. Laundrie, 23, was listed as a "person of interest" in her killing but he was charged only with fraudulent use of a debit card that was not his.

His remains were found in a nature preserve not far from his family's home in North Port, Florida, where both he and Petito had been living. Both were originally from Long Island, New York.

Laundrie returned home alone Sept. 1 from his trip with Petito. Her body was found Sept. 19 in the Wyoming park and authorities say it had been there for about a month.

Laundrie told his parents Sept. 13 he was headed to the Carlton Reserve park in Sarasota County. That was the last publicly known contact anyone had with him.□

North Carolina man identified as victim of John Wayne Gacy



Cairenn Fullam-Binder, center, with the nonprofit organization called the DNA Doe Project, talks about the group's involvement in helping authorities identify "Gacy Victim 5" as North Carolina native Francis Wayne Alexander, during a news conference Monday, Oct. 25, 2021, in Maywood, Ill.

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A North Carolina man who moved to Chicago was one of the victims of John Wayne Gacy, who was convicted of killing 33 young men and boys in the 1970s, authorities said Monday.

Francis Wayne Alexander would have been 21 or 22 years old when Gacy killed him sometime between early 1976 and early 1977, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart said at a news conference in announcing the

identification of Alexander's remains.

In a statement, Alexander's sister, Carolyn Sanders, thanked the sheriff's office for giving the family some level of "closure."

"It is hard, even 45 years later, to know the fate of our beloved Wayne," Sanders wrote. "He was killed at the hands of a vile and evil man. Our hearts are heavy, and our sympathies go out to the other victims' families. ... We can now lay to

rest what happened and move forward by honoring Wayne."

Alexander's remains were among 26 sets that police found in the crawl space under Gacy's home just outside the city. Three victims, meanwhile, were found buried on Gacy's property and four others whom Gacy admitted killing were found in waterways south of Chicago.

In 2011, Dart's office exhumed the remains of eight victims, including Alexander, who had been buried without police knowing who they were. Dart called on anyone who had a male relative disappear in the Chicago area in the 1970s to submit DNA. That was the time when Gacy was luring young men and boys to his home to eventually kill them.

Within weeks, the sheriff's office announced that it had identified one set of remains as those of William Bundy, a 19-year-old construction worker.

In 2017, the office identified a second set as those

of 16-year-old Jimmy Haakenson, who disappeared after he phoned his mother in Minnesota and told her that he was in Chicago.

The details of Alexander's life in Chicago are sketchy. Born in North Carolina, he moved to New York and then on to Chicago, where he was married for approximately three months before he was divorced in 1975.

According to the sheriff's office's news release, the last known record of Alexander's life was a traffic ticket he received in Chicago in January of 1976 — a year in which he earned little money. How he crossed paths with one of the most notorious serial killers in American history is a mystery, as authorities say all they know is that "Alexander lived in an area that was frequented by Gacy and where other identified victims had previously lived."

The identification of Alexander came together when the sheriff's department teamed up with a nonprofit called the DNA

Doe Project, which uses genetic information to locate relatives of dead people who have not been identified. The organization compared the DNA profile from the unidentified victim's remains to profiles on a genealogy website to find potential relatives. That led it to Alexander's family, and Alexander's mother and half-brother provided their DNA for comparison.□

Between the genetic testing, financial records, post-mortem reports and other information, investigators were able to confirm that the remains were Alexander's.

The submission of DNA from people who suspected Gacy might have killed their loved ones has helped police solve at least 11 cold cases of homicides that had nothing to do with Gacy, who was executed in 1994. It has also helped families find loved ones who while missing, were alive, including a man in Oregon who had no idea his family was looking for him.□

U.S. official: Russia should send more gas to Europe 'quickly'

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— A senior energy adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden urged Russia to supply more natural gas to Europe now rather than wait for approval of a newly completed pipeline, saying Monday that "they should do it quickly" to ward off the risk of severe gas shortages this winter.

Amos Hochstein, Biden's senior adviser for global energy security, said the natural gas crunch in Europe had multiple causes, including strong demand for gas in China. But he said Russia had enough gas to increase sales now rather than wait for European Union and German authorities to give final regulatory approval to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which brings gas across the Baltic Sea directly to Europe and bypasses Poland and Ukraine.

"They can increase upstream production, they should do it, they should do it quickly, and they should supply it through the existing pipelines," Hochstein told journalists in an online briefing from Washington. "If Russia has the gas to supply Nord Stream 2, as



In this Jan. 14, 2021, file photo, tugboats get into position on the Russian pipe-laying vessel "Fortuna" in the port of Wismar, Germany.

Associated Press

they suggest, that means they have the gas to supply it through the Ukrainian GTS (gas transit system) or other pipelines as well, so they should do that."

Natural gas prices in Europe — which imports 90% of its supply, largely from Russia — are five times higher than at the start of the year. Reserves depleted last winter

were not sufficiently refilled during the warm months to calm concerns about shortages during the winter heating season.

Russia's state-controlled Gazprom has continued to supply gas to European customers under its long-term contracts but has not increased supply on the spot market even as prices

have skyrocketed. Some analysts and political figures have accused Russia of holding back gas supplies to pressure European authorities into speeding up final approval of the new pipeline, which could take months. Analysts do not expect Nord Stream 2 to help relieve Europe's gas crunch until sometime next

year.

Hochstein repeated a warning from September that a lack of gas and heat could cost lives in the most vulnerable communities if the coming winter is colder than usual. He said the "crisis that we are facing is not just about money and higher prices, it was something that literally endangered lives."

The U.S. opposed the pipeline, saying it increased Europe's energy dependence on Russia, and it is opposed by both Poland and Ukraine over energy security concerns. Ukraine could lose transit fees if gas that otherwise would have gone through Ukraine's pipeline system passes through Nord Stream 2 instead.

The Biden administration dropped efforts to block it with sanctions once it was almost complete, instead striking a deal with Germany that they would take action against Russia if it used gas as a weapon against Ukraine and that Germany would help fund Ukraine's transition to green energy. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the pipeline is "purely commercial." □

Dutch agency: Netherlands could face higher sea level rises

By MIKE CORDER

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Dutch climate experts warned Monday that the low-lying Netherlands could face higher sea level rises than previously forecast as well as the threat of extreme rainfall and other dangerous weather events caused by climate change.

The Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, known by its Dutch acronym KNMI, issued the stark warning in a new update based on its own research and a report issued in August by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The Dutch report was presented less than a week before the U.N.'s annual climate conference opens in Glasgow, Scotland. The Oct. 31-Nov. 12 event,

known as COP26, is seen by many as an important and even crucial opportunity for concrete government commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. "It might not be cheerful reading, but it is necessary reading," Dutch State Secretary for Infrastructure and Water Steven Weyenberg said.

"Talking about climate change as something we do for our children underestimates the urgency," he added.

The KNMI said that if greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced, the sea level along the long Dutch coastline could rise by 1.2 meters (nearly 4 feet) by the year 2100. The institute warned in 2014 of a possible 1-meter rise.

It said in Monday's update that if melting of the Ant-

arctic ice cap accelerates, then sea levels could rise by 2 meters by 2100.

The agency also warned of both heavier summer storms and droughts, with river levels expected to be lower in the summer and higher in the winter.

The low-lying Netherlands is protected by thousands of kilometers (miles) of dikes along its rivers and its North Sea coast, and has a national Delta Fund that invests hundreds of millions each year in improvements and maintenance.

Over the summer, torrential rainfall sparked widespread flooding in the southern province of Limburg. The same heavy summer storm caused dozens of deaths in neighboring Germany and Belgium.

"Adapting to extreme weather and anticipat-



In the July 17, 2021 file photo, Wiel de Bie, 75, stands outside his flooded home in the town of Bremmelen, Netherlands.

Associated Press

ing sea level rises must be a top priority for a new government," Rogier van der Sande, chairman of the Dutch Union of Water Boards, said in a statement Monday.

Four parties are currently negotiating to form the

next Dutch ruling coalition, with climate measures one of the topics they are discussing.

Weyenberg said it is clear more has to be done.

"The climate crisis is here. It's code red, and it is up to us all to act," he said. □

Sudan's military takes power in coup, arrests prime minister

By SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan's military seized power Monday, dissolving the transitional government hours after troops arrested the prime minister. Thousands of people flooded into the streets to protest the coup that threatens the country's shaky progress toward democracy.

Security forces opened fire on some of the crowds, and three protesters were killed, according to the Sudan Doctors' Committee, which said 80 people were wounded.

The takeover comes more than two years after protesters forced the ouster of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir and just weeks before the military was supposed to hand the leadership of the council that runs the country over to civilians.

After the early morning arrests of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and other senior officials, thousands poured into the streets of the capital, Khartoum, and its twin city of Omdurman. They blocked streets and set fire to tires as security forces used tear gas to disperse them.

As plumes of smoke filled the air, protesters could be heard chanting, "The people are stronger, stronger!" and "Retreat is not an option!" Videos on social media showed large crowds crossing bridges over the Nile to the center of the capital, while the U.S. Embassy warned troops were blocking off parts of the city. It urged the military "to immediately cease violence."

Pro-democracy activist Dura Gambo said paramilitary forces chased protesters through some Khartoum neighborhoods. She said sporadic gunshots could be heard in many parts of the capital.

Records from a Khartoum hospital obtained by The Associated Press showed some people admitted with gunshot wounds.

In the afternoon, the head of the military, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, announced



In this frame taken from video, the head of the military, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, announced in a televised address, that he was dissolving the country's ruling Sovereign Council, as well as the government led by Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, in Khartoum, Sudan, Monday, Oct. 25, 2021.

Associated Press

on national TV that he was dissolving the government and the Sovereign Council, a joint military and civilian body created soon after al-Bashir's ouster to run the country.

Burhan said quarrels among political factions prompted the military intervention. Tensions have been rising for weeks over the course and the pace of the transition to democracy in Sudan, a nation in Africa linked by language and culture to the Arab world.

The general declared a state of emergency and said the military will appoint a technocratic government to lead the country to elections, set for July 2023. But he made clear the military will remain in charge.

"The Armed Forces will continue completing the democratic transition until the handover of the country's leadership to a civilian, elected government," he said. He added that the constitution would be rewritten and a legislative body would be formed with the participation of "young men and women who made this revolution."

The Information Ministry, still loyal to the dissolved government, called his speech an "announcement of a seizure of power by military coup."

White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said the U.S. was "deeply alarmed

at reports of a military takeover" and called for the immediate release of the prime minister and other officials.

"The actions today are in stark opposition to the will of the Sudanese people and their aspirations for peace, liberty and justice," Jean-Pierre said.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "strongly condemns the ongoing military coup d'état in Khartoum and all actions that could jeopardize Sudan's political transition and stability," said his spokesman, spokesman Stéphane Dujarric.

Guterres also called for the release of the government officials, the spokesman said, as did the African Union. EU foreign affairs chief Joseph Borrell tweeted that he was following the events with the "utmost concern."

Michelle Bachelet, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, warned that Sudan could slip backward, urging the military to release the officials, withdraw from the streets and settle differences with civilians in the transitional government "through dialogue and negotiation."

Since al-Bashir, who remains in prison, was forced from power, Sudan has worked to slowly rid itself the international pariah status it held under the autocrat. The country was

removed from the United States' state supporter of terror list in 2020, opening the door for badly needed foreign loans and investment.

But Sudan's economy has struggled with the shock of a number economic reforms called for by international lending institutions. U.S. Sen. Chris Coons, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee and a close ally of President Joe Biden, warned in a tweet that the U.S. could cut aid to Sudan "if the authority of PM Hamdok & the full transitional government is not restored."

In recent weeks, there have been concerns that the military might be planning a takeover, and in fact there was a failed coup attempt in September. Tensions only rose from there, as the country fractured along old lines, with more conservative Islamists who want a military government pitted against those who toppled al-Bashir in protests. In recent days, both camps have taken to the streets in demonstrations.

Amid the standoff, the generals have called repeatedly for dissolving Hamdok's transitional government — and Burhan, who leads the ruling Sovereign Council, said frequently that the military would only relinquish power to an elected government, an indication that the generals might not stick

to the plan to hand leadership of the body to a civilian sometime in November. The council is the ultimate decision-maker, though the Hamdok government is tasked with running Sudan's day-to-day affairs.

As part of efforts to resolve the crisis, Jeffrey Feltman, the U.S. special envoy to the Horn of Africa, met with Sudanese officials over the weekend, and a senior Sudanese military official said he tried unsuccessfully during his visit to get the generals to stick to the agreed plan.

The arrests began a few hours later, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief media.

The official said the prime minister and the others were being detained in a military camp outside Khartoum.

In recent weeks, the military has been emboldened in its dispute with civilian leaders by the support of tribal protesters, who blocked the country's main Red Sea port for weeks. The most two senior military officials, Burhan and his deputy Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, also have close ties with Egypt and the wealthy Gulf nations of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The first reports of a possible military takeover emerged before dawn, and the Information Ministry later confirmed them hours later, saying Hamdok and several senior government figures had been arrested and their whereabouts were unknown. Internet access was widely disrupted and the country's state news channel played patriotic traditional music.

Hamdok's office denounced the detentions on Facebook as a "complete coup." It said his wife was also arrested.

Sudan has suffered other coups since it gained its independence from Britain and Egypt in 1956. Al-Bashir came to power in 1989 in one such takeover, which removed the country's last elected government. □

Cambodia amends charter to bar dual citizens from top office

By SOPHENG CHEANG

Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Lawmakers in Cambodia on Monday approved an amendment to the constitution barring Cambodians with dual citizenship from holding high government office, a move initiated by Prime Minister Hun Sen and directed at prominent opposition politicians.

The government says the measure is meant to show officials' loyalty to their homeland and avoid foreign interference. Several opposition leaders hold dual citizenship, while none of the top members of Hun Sen's party is known to hold dual nationality.

The move is the latest volley in a long struggle for power between Hun Sen, who has led the country for 36 years, and his political rivals from the Cambodia National Rescue Party, which had been the sole credible opposition force until it was disbanded by the Supreme Court.

Unsupported assertions by Sam Rainsy, the self-exiled founder of the opposition party, that Hun Sen sought to purchase citizenship from the European nation of Cyprus triggered the prime minister's anger. Cypriot nationality has been available through large in-



In this photo released by Cambodia's National Assembly, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen drops a ballot into a box in the National Assembly hall in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Monday, Oct. 25, 2021.

Associated Press

vestments in the island nation.

Sam Rainsy has feuded bitterly with Hun Sen for years. He holds French citizenship and has been living near Paris to avoid imprisonment in Cambodia on charges he says are politically motivated.

"This law would be custom-tailored to target me, as Hun Sen made it clear that as a reprisal against me, he wants to definitely block me from the premiership," Sam Rainsy said on his

Facebook page earlier this month.

Most top leaders of the opposition party fled Cambodia in late 2017, when Hun Sen launched a sweeping crackdown on critics and the high court disbanded the party and removed its lawmakers from Parliament. It is widely believed the court acted to ensure victory for Hun Sen's party in the 2018 general election, which it ended up sweeping.

Several Western nations

have imposed sanctions on Hun Sen's government, mainly after concluding that the election was neither free nor fair.

The constitutional amendment, covering the posts of prime minister, the speakers of the upper and lower houses and chair of the

Constitutional Council, was passed unanimously by the National Assembly with 111 votes. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party holds all 123 seats in the lower house and 12 of its lawmakers apparently were absent. The change will come into effect after being approval by the Senate and signed by King Norodom Sihamoni, both considered formalities.

Sam Rainsy's accusation on Facebook that Hun Sen sought citizenship from Cyprus was based on an assertion in a story in the British newspaper The Guardian that the prime minister "was discovered to have been among the thousands of non-Europeans who received a Cypriot passport." There is no evidence that is true, and the newspaper later corrected the statement.

The TV news network Al Jazeera and other media have reported that leaked documents from Cyprus show that Hun Sen's niece as well as some Cambodian officials and cronies applied for or received Cypriot nationality. □

2,000 migrants continue trek through southern Mexico

By EDGAR H. CLEMENTE

Associated Press

HUIXTLA, Mexico (AP) — More than 2,000 mostly Central American migrants walked along a highway in southern Mexico toward the town of Huixtla Monday where security forces had deployed, possibly signaling that authorities would soon try to break up the group.

About 100 National Guard, soldiers and immigration agents waited just outside Huixtla. Authorities have dissolved other migrant groups in the area during other recent attempts.

The migrants set out early

Saturday from Tapachula, near the Guatemala border, where thousands of migrants have spent months waiting for asylum applications or other visas that would allow them to transit Mexico. The government has used a containment strategy with a varying degree of success to try to keep migrants in the south and far from the U.S. border.

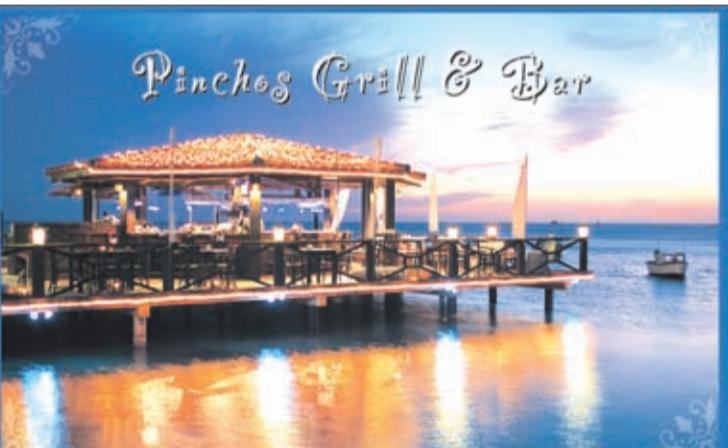
Large groups of migrants attempted to walk out of Tapachula in recent months after growing frustrated with the wait and their inability to find work. Those groups were largely

made up of Haitians, who were notably absent from the larger group that left Saturday. Thousands of Haitians made it to the U.S. border in September, many of whom were later deported to their homeland.

The latest group is composed mostly of Central Americans, many with young children.

They started walking early Monday from Huehuetan before the heat of the day set in.

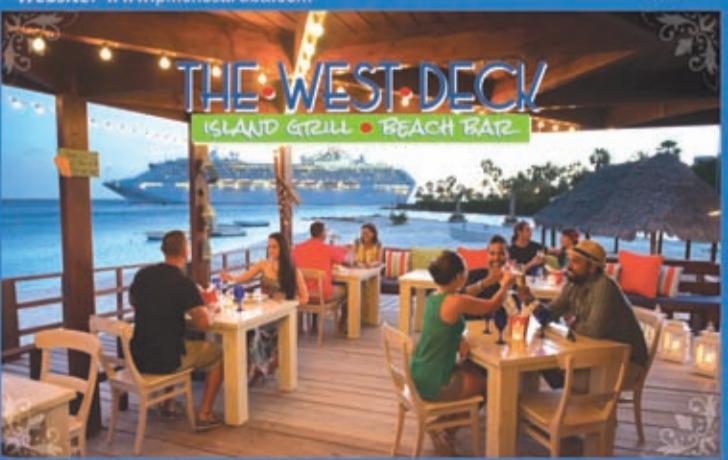
"We're not hurting anyone," said Maryin Juárez, a Nicaraguan college student travelling with her uncle and cousin. □



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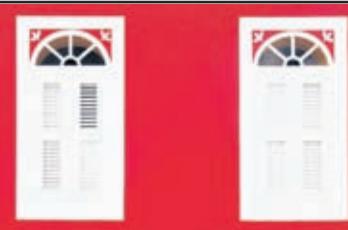


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LOCAL



Aruba now has two professional K9 trained in Aruba



ORANJESTAD - This year, the Police Management deemed it necessary to have a Police Training Program to train the K9 division of the Police Department.

With the educators of the E.J. Watty Vos Police Academy, the K9 Instructor Mr. Vianney Coffie prepared the professional program on the International K9 level.

This program opens the doors for Aruba to have their K9 instructor and inspector train any K9 police officer, either locals or international.

After six months of hard work, planning, training,

and intensive studying of K9, the Aruba Police is proud to announce that they have two Police Officers with their K9 Notorious and Dax, who successfully passed their exams and are ready to work the streets. Officer A. Leonard's new partner is K9 Notorious, and officer D. de Castro's new partner is K9 Dax, both Mechelse Herders. It is the first time that the Aruba Police has two dual K9s that

can search for objects and weapons. With these two new police dogs, the K9 unit continues to grow. The officers and Inspectors received their certificates at the "Cobra field" in Savaneta. Minister of Justice Mr. Rocco Tjon, Police Commissioner Mrs. Trudy Hassell, and the Head of the E.J. Watty Vos Academy Mrs. Jeanette Richardson-Baars were also present. During this event, officer J. Lopez

Atari was also sworn in. "We are so proud of the K9 Unit, their dedication, love, and professionalism and even more for their expertise in this field, and they are here to stay," the Police Commissioner Mrs. Trudy Hassell said in her speech. The K9 unit displayed the ability of the new K9s. Aruba can be very proud to have a dedicated team and ready for any eventual situation.□

Deficit national budget 2021 140 million lower

ORANJESTAD - Anticipating the changes in the National Budget 2021, the Minister of Finance, Mrs. Xiomara Maduro, informed the Parliament in the "Fall Memorandum 2021" on the changes presented after the National Budget 2021 was approved.

It is essential to mention

that the anticipated deficit for 2021 is 140 million lower. The expected budget deficit of 762 million is now 622 million florins.

The decrease is due to the slight increase in Government revenue caused by the decline in expenses because of policy changes and an unexpected posi-

tive result. The increase in Government revenue is thanks to the changes in ground lease policy which had positive results.

In addition, some expenses are not included, namely:

- to cover the AZV and SVB deficit,
- Salary Subsidy (which is lower than anticipat-

ed),
• TIO expenses, since it will not be introduced in 2021.

the installation of the Ombudsman.

This week, the law concept for the changes in the National Budget 2021 was sent to the Advisory Council for advice. Once the Government receives its corresponding advice, they will make the eventual changes and send it to the Parliament for approval before the end of the year.□



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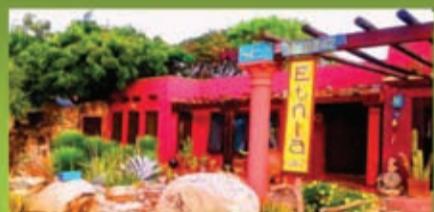
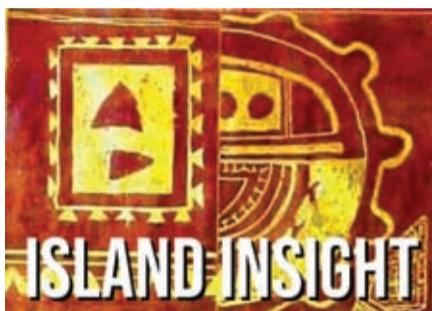
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Article by Etnia Nativa

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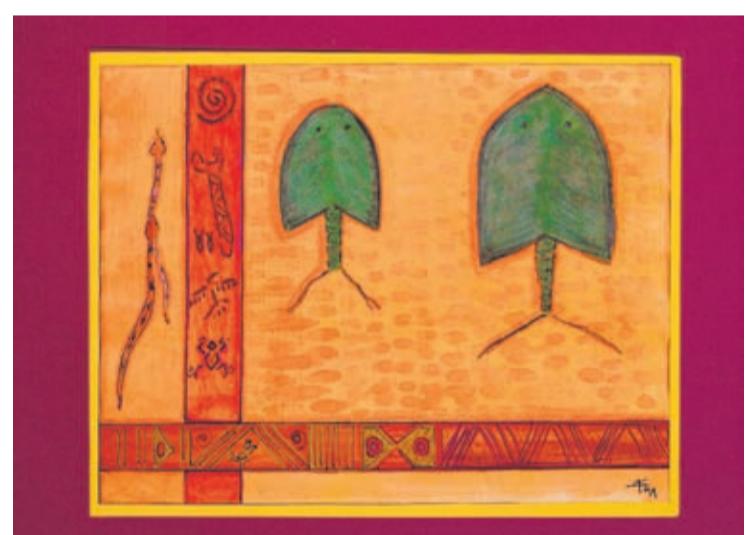
Aruba's living fossil Triops longicaudatus: "Hobo hobo" Episode CXXVI- 127

NOORD - One and every living species rejoices if there was a significant rainy season. This blessing counts for man, plants and animals as well, since rain is very scares on this lonely rock. Water burst in to life and happiness on this arid Caribbean island which is notable everywhere. During this season dry river beds will carry the much needed liquid into fields, collecting holes and natural pound before it sinks in to the dry ground, evaporates or reaches the sea.

In our story this week we will talk about a bizarre looking prehistoric creature which emerges of very tiny eggs and starts to swim around in these seasonal ponds of our desert island, egg which can stay dormant for many decades awaiting the downpour. These tiny creatures of approximately 4.5 to 5 cm from head to tail will reach maturity in 2 to 3 weeks and will live about 6 to 12 weeks in the wild and 10 to 13 weeks in captivity. Locals know these tiny creatures un-

der the name Hobo hobo or Hobi in Papiamento.

However many people confuses these with tadpoles, but these animals do not have nothing to do with frogs or any other amphibians present on the island but are prehistoric fresh water crustaceous or shrimps known as Triops or popularly as tadpole shrimp in English. Most Triops are hermaphrodites, meaning they can fertilize their own eggs.



The one we find on Aruba is called *Triops longicaudatus* by scientists. It looks much like a miniature horseshoe crab, whit an elongated, segmented body, a flattened shield-like olive or brownish colored carapace which covers most part of its body, whit two long filaments on the end tail and whiskers like filaments on its face. Despite their potential contribution in mosquito control, limited evidence for their effectiveness in mosquito larval control is available. However, Triops are considered a pest in some countries.

It's believed that egg could be carried by water fowl, in the mud that stick to their feet when feeding in pond and seasonal lake.

When I was a young kid I used to collect tadpoles and Hobo hobo that where abundant in every small hole or zone that could hold water after a seasonal downpour, but today they are really scares or not present, believing that development and the consequence erosion has scraped away much of the top soil contain the tiny eggs□



Did you say that you love Aruba its origins and cultural heritage? Than this private encounter with our columnist anthropologist is just as you. Sessions created in a gorgeous setting for visitor with special interests. Appointment is required. etnianativa03@gmail.com or WhatsApp us 297 592 2702 for a private reservation.



NOORD — Within walking distance of the finest white beaches and the clear blue ocean, Tuscany Residence Aruba is founded in one of the best and most popular neighborhoods of Aruba, close to the shopping and nightlife of Palm Beach. Tuscany Residence Aruba brings luxury living to a new level and they are very unique in their offerings with the Daimari Water Villas.

Around 180 exclusive properties will be built in all different sizes and prices, suitable for everyone's wishes and among them are 18 luxury Water Villas, all with a private terrace and direct access to the pool. The Daimari Water Villas include 2 and 3 bedrooms with wardrobes, 2 and 3.5 bathrooms, are fully furnished with a fully equipped German kitchen, fully air-conditioned and with wide aluminum sliding door to the covered pool terraces. Balcony and covered terraces are offered on the 2 floors unit and a private parking in front of the unit or your own garage is all yours. 50% of these amazing houses is already sold! There are still 6 residences available, including 2 with a one car garage.

Tuscany Residences now offer a special pre-construction discount, whereby your advantage increases to 9.7%. Pre-construction prices valid up to November 1st starting at US\$ 450,775 Turn-Key!

Dutch design

This luxury residential resort with various types of homes has many amenities such as swimming pools, restaurant, bar, offices, meeting rooms, gym, wellness and more. The combination of the beautiful Dutch modern international architecture and the Aruban palm trees creates a luxurious Aruban feeling and relaxed atmosphere in this resort. Tuscany Residence Aruba is the perfect choice for couples and families. Bas de Groot, Managing Director of Tuscany Residence Aruba adds, "We differ from traditional building, our design distinguishes itself." At 8 minutes' walk from Palm Beach, designed in a European style with high-quality materials, on property land and with buying possibilities from condos to townhouses to villas, Tuscany Residence is a dream comes true.



Tuscany Residence Aruba: Aruba's Luxury Residential Resort with unique Water Villas

We take care of it all

De Groot adds, "Our project is in continuous construction which builds confidence. He continues saying that maintenance, property management, rental program and safety are taken care of. "You can log in from abroad and manage your property for rental or view your administration." The great thing about Tuscany is that it offers everything equal to a resort but you do not need to wait for an elevator to bring you up, worry about parking space or noisy neighbors. "We have got space and different size offerings making this more a community feel rather than a packed condo building." He also emphasizes that the location is one of the best on Aruba as it is quiet and close to Palm Beach.

Reasons to buy

Reasons to consider Aruba property ownership, at Tuscany Residence Aruba

- Excellent price-quality ratio
- Beautiful designs & Quality construction
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- Onsite Maintenance Team, Property Management & Rental Program

Are you looking for a safe, quiet, residential area where you will meet a mix of local and foreign owners? Do you feel for a warm community with amenities like wellness, gym, restaurants, pools and this all within a structure where the residence takes care of your property management while you are not here? Can the highest European quality and solid working structure take away your preoccupations while you are home? Then meet us, we are here to convince you with quality!

For an impression of Daimari Water Villas have a look at the website: <https://www.tuscanyresidencearuba.com/en/news>. For more information please contact Bas de Groot by phone +297-7332424 or email bas@tuscanyresidencearuba.com. □

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Liz Weston: Money mistakes could signal dementia

By LIZ WESTON of NerdWallet

Some of the early signs of dementia are financial: forgetting to pay bills, for example, or having trouble calculating a tip. People who develop dementia also are more likely to miss credit card payments and have subprime credit scores years before they're diagnosed, according to a study published last year in medical journal JAMA Internal Medicine.

Researchers linked health records for more than 80,000 Medicare beneficiaries to credit bureau data and found that people who developed dementia had a higher risk of skipping credit card payments starting six years before their diagnosis. The study found the chances of incurring subprime credit scores — indicating multiple or serious delinquencies — rose as early as two and a half years before diagnosis.

Researcher Lauren Hersch Nicholas, a health economist and associate professor at the University of Colorado School of Public Health, says the study was inspired by horror stories of people suffering catastrophic financial losses because of undetected cognitive decline.

"They and their families had no idea that they were in the early stages of dementia until something happened, like the house would get foreclosed on," Nicholas says.

If a loved one is struggling to manage money, there may be ways to protect their finances and credit rating while preserving their dignity and autonomy. If you're concerned about your own vulnerability to cognitive decline, you can also set up guardrails to protect yourself.

SIMPLIFY, AUTOMATE AND ALERT

EverSafe, a technology service that monitors people's financial accounts for signs of fraud and identity theft, has some clients with dozens of bank, brokerage and credit card accounts, says EverSafe co-founder and CEO Howard Tischler.



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Associated Press

Even without cognitive issues, "it's hard to stay on top of that," Tischler says. Consolidating to one bank, one brokerage and one or two credit cards can make monitoring accounts easier. Putting bills on autopay can prevent missed payments, although bank balances still have to be monitored so that those payments don't deplete the account, Nicholas notes. Most accounts allow customers to set up alerts so that they're notified by text or email of low balances, transactions that exceed a limit you set or other potential issues. Often you can add more than one phone number or email address so that a second person is notified, as well.

Alerts can be set up online, or you can call the financial provider's customer service number, says Amy Goyer, AARP's national family and caregiving expert. If you're setting these

up for someone else, that person probably will need to be on the call with you and give permission for the changes, Goyer says. In addition, some companies allow customers to designate a trusted person who can be contacted if unusual transactions are detected and the institution can't get a response from the customer. Meanwhile, monitoring a credit score can alert you to missed payments or identity theft. Many banks and credit card companies offer credit scores for free, or you can sign up for a free service online.

DESIGNATE A CO-PILOT

Estate planning attorneys say that virtually every adult should have a financial power of attorney, which is a legal document that designates someone you trust to make financial decisions for you if you're incapacitated.

Beyond that, there are a number of ways to monitor finances. An older person may feel comfortable adding an adult child or other trusted person as a joint owner of a checking account, for example, or be willing to share login credentials for financial accounts. Another option is to share login credentials for an account aggregation

service, such as Mint or Simplifi. The trusted person wouldn't be able to log in to the bank, brokerage or credit card accounts, but would be able to see balances and transactions.

Unfortunately, not everyone has a trusted person, and elder financial abuse is often perpetrated by family members. An attorney, certified public accountant, certified financial planner or other fiduciary may be willing to serve as a trusted person, Goyer says. (Fiduciary means they're required to put your interests ahead of their own.) Goyer says another option is to call the local Area Agency on Aging, which are public or private non-profit agencies designated by the states to coordinate and offer services for older people. She suggests asking the agency for recommendations of people or services that are vetted and experienced in helping older adults deal with money.

ADAPT AS NEEDED

Goyer warns against going overboard. Trying to take over someone's finances prematurely can cause resentment and may not be good for them.

"Don't take away all their freedom or independence or responsibility, because that's not really good for them cognitively," Goyer says.

When Goyer's father struggled with managing money, she took over paying the bills. But she also set up a separate checking account for her dad and transferred spending money there every month.

"He was still able to go to the grocery store, buy gas for the car, pay for Mom's hair appointments," Goyer says. "He managed that just fine for two or three years." □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Syrup source

6 Texan tree

11 Sci-fi visitor

12 Without aid

13 Some use rings

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16 Future embryos

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34 Wedding words

37 Letter before epsilon

38 Letter before omega

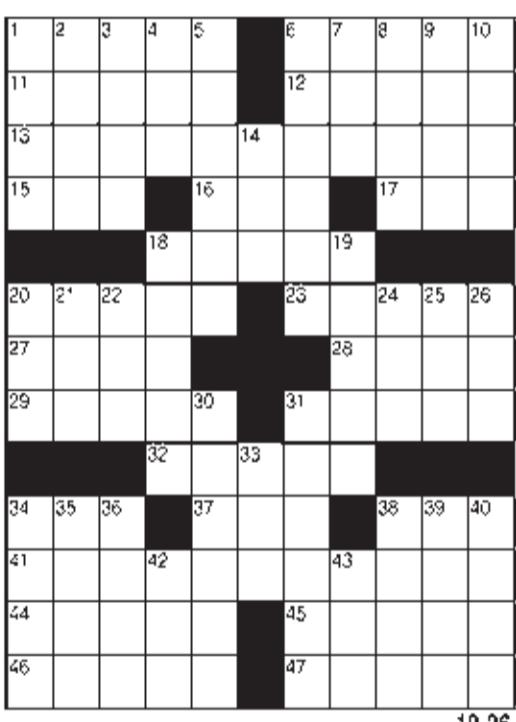
41 Rewards for Rover

44 Spine-tingling

45 Vatican-based

46 "Why — you in bed?"

47 Play setting



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-26

CRYPTOQUOTE

Q Y Q D A Z Y R Z C H J G R C P

V Q T P S J Y R Z C H J G R K Z T P

C P W J Y Q A Y Z V Q T Q A V .

— H Z Y R P X Y P X P D I

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: BETTER THREE HOURS TOO SOON THAN A MINUTE TOO LATE. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

People or profit? Facebook papers show deep conflict within



In this Nov. 19, 2016, file photo, Mark Zuckerberg, chairman and CEO of Facebook, speaks at the CEO summit during the annual Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Lima, Peru. Associated Press

AP Technology Writer

Facebook the company is losing control of Facebook the product not to mention the last shreds of its carefully crafted, decade-old image as a benevolent company just wanting to connect the world. Thousands of pages of internal documents provided to Congress by a former employee depict an internally conflicted company where data on the harms it causes is abundant, but solutions, much less the will to act on them, are halting at best.

The crisis exposed by the documents shows how Facebook, despite its regularly avowed good intentions, appears to have slow-walked or sidelined efforts to address real harms the social network has magnified and sometimes created. They reveal numerous instances where researchers and rank-and-file workers uncovered deep-seated problems that the company then overlooked or ignored.

Final responsibility for this state of affairs rests with CEO Mark Zuckerberg, who holds what one former employee described as dictatorial power over a corporation that collects data on and provides free services to roughly 3 billion people around the world.

"Ultimately, it rests with Mark and whatever his prerogative is and it has always been to grow, to increase his power and his reach," said Jennifer Grygiel, a Syracuse University communications professor who's

followed Facebook closely for years.

Zuckerberg has an ironclad hold on Facebook Inc. He holds the majority of the company's voting shares, controls its board of directors and has increasingly surrounded himself with executives who don't appear to question his vision. But he has so far been unable to address stagnating user growth and shrinking engagement for Facebook the product in key areas such as the United States and Europe. Worse, the company is losing the attention of its most important demographic teenagers and young people—with no clear path to gaining it back, its own documents reveal. Young adults engage with Facebook far less than their older cohorts, seeing it as an "outdated network" with "irrelevant content" that provides limited value for them, according to a November 2020 internal document. It is "boring, misleading and negative," they say.

In other words, the young see Facebook as a place for old people.

Facebook's user base has been aging faster, on average, than the general population, the company's researchers found. Unless Facebook can find a way to turn this around, its population will continue to get older and young people will find even fewer reasons to sign on, threatening the monthly user figures that are essential to selling ads. Facebook says its products are still widely used by

teens, although it acknowledges there's "tough competition" from TikTok, Snapchat and the like.

So it can continue to expand its reach and power, Facebook has pushed for high user growth outside the U.S. and Western Europe. But as it expanded into less familiar parts of the world, the company systematically failed to address or even anticipate the unintended consequences of signing up millions of new users without also providing staff and systems to identify and limit the spread of hate speech, misinformation and calls to violence.

In Afghanistan and Myanmar, for instance, extremist language has flourished due to a systemic lack of language support for content moderation, whether that's human or artificial intelligence-driven. In Myanmar, it has been linked to atrocities committed against the country's minority Rohingya Muslim population.

But Facebook appears unable to acknowledge, much less prevent, the real-world collateral damage accompanying its untrammeled growth. Those harms include shadowy algorithms that radicalize users, pervasive misinformation and extremism, facilitation of human trafficking, teen suicide and more.

Internal efforts to mitigate such problems have often been pushed aside or abandoned when solutions conflict with growth—and, by extension, profit.

Backed into a corner with hard evidence from leaked documents, the company has doubled down defending its choices rather than try to fix its problems.

"We do not and we have not prioritized engagement over safety," Monika Bickert, Facebook's head of global policy management, told The Associated Press this month following congressional testimony from whistleblower and former Facebook employee Frances Haugen. □

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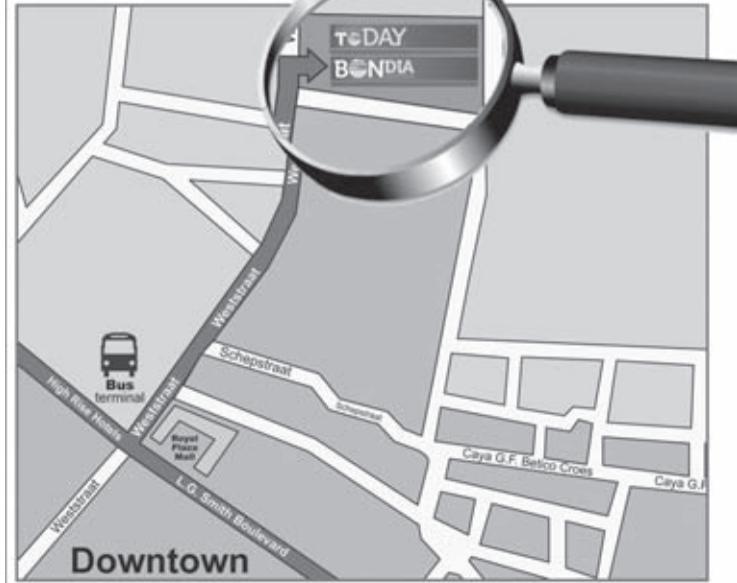
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TODAY **BONDIA**

How to reach us!


 A map of downtown Aruba showing the locations of Aruba Today and Bondia. The map includes labels for High Rise Hotel, Waterfront, Royal Plaza Mall, Scheepstraat, Weststraat, L.G. Smith Boulevard, Clayia G.F. Bellico Cross, Clayia G.J., and Clayia G.R. A magnifying glass is shown focusing on the intersection of Weststraat and Scheepstraat, where the Aruba Today and Bondia offices are located.
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Fox News launching its own mobile-friendly weather service

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Fox News Media is getting into another rough-and-tumble world — the weather.

The company is launching Fox Weather, a free streaming service and app that it expects will be used most frequently by customers on their mobile devices.

In preparation for the Monday start, Fox has been building a staff, plucking personnel from The Weather Channel and markets in New York, Houston, Phoenix, Miami, Charlotte, North Carolina, and elsewhere.

Advances in weather technology and interest created by climate change and more powerful storms has made weather news a popular area in which to invest, experts say.

"It's all we talk about," said Sharri Berg, Fox Weather president. "We might as well build a platform for it."

Fox Weather is moving into a market dominated by long-time players like The Weather Channel and AccuWeather — both of whom have been busy building their own new products — as well as aggressive niche players.

When Berg scrolls through weather apps, she said she sees many specialty services that concentrate on things like surf conditions or wind. Besides convenience and clarity, Berg said one of Fox's chief selling points will be offering a single destination for people to get many things — local forecasts (with 3-D radar),



Co-anchor and meteorologist Jason Frazer rehearses on the Fox Weather set at News Corporation headquarters in New York, Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021.

Associated Press

severe weather warnings, weather-related news stories and a video stream that operates like a traditional TV network.

"It's not so much reinventing the way you tell the weather story, it's just improving upon it," said Steve Baron, Fox Weather senior vice president for digital products and strategy.

Byron Allen, owner of The Weather Channel, sounded almost giddy at the prospect of another challenger.

"I'm just a kid from Detroit pinching myself, to be in competition with Rupert Murdoch, one of the greatest media moguls of all time," Allen said. "That's an honor for me."

"I would have been disap-

pointed if he didn't come into the weather space, because it's a great space, and it's an important space," he said. "We certainly don't mind the competition."

The Weather Channel next year is introducing subscription-based streaming services so people who have abandoned cable will have access to their programming. It will also launch a Spanish-language streaming service.

Allen pointed to consumer surveys that rate The Weather Channel highly as a source of information. "They know we are reliable and trusted," he said. "You don't get that overnight. It is earned."

Similarly, Jonathan Porter,

senior vice president and meteorologist at AccuWeather, pointed to the precise forecasting services the company has built over many years that are provided to consumers and businesses — even to many Fox-owned television stations.

"Fox will have to demonstrate that they can compensate for not having all of these capabilities when they launch," Porter said.

Some of the Fox News Media products — like the Fox Business Network and Fox Nation streaming service — are ideologically comfortable for viewers of the main Fox News Channel. That raises the question of whether the same would be true of Fox Weather.

While executives at both The Weather Channel and AccuWeather stressed that their services are paying attention to the impact of climate change on the world's weather, several Fox News commentators have expressed skepticism about the subject.

"We're not debating or ignoring it," Berg said. "It's part of how we live now. We'll be translating it and basing it on science and data, that is what we are focused on. This is a 100% pure weather product and weather-centric focused platform."

In addition to more powerful storms and bigger wildfires, the science of forecasting has also changed. Newly robust computer technology has greatly improved forecasting ability, and experts say this has also fueled interest among consumers.

AccuWeather, for example, introduced a Minute-Cast service in 2016, and has steadily improved upon it since, offering very precise forecasts, for example, of when it might start raining on one side of town. There's no way a similar service could have operated two decades ago, Porter said.

Along with technology, Berg said she believes Fox is building a weather news team second to none.

"I think Fox Weather is entering the weather space at the right time, and I think we're building it on the right platform," she said. □

PHF strikes women's hockey streaming deal with ESPN+

NEW YORK (AP) — The Premier Hockey Federation has reached an agreement to make ESPN+ the exclusive home for watching games in this U.S. this season, a major step forward for the women's hockey league in putting all of its games on a single platform.

The deal covers 60 regular-season games for the newly renamed National Women's Hockey League as well as the Isobel Cup

playoffs. The season opens Nov. 6. "This is a tremendous opportunity for the PHF and most importantly for our athletes who deserve the exposure that a major network can provide," PHF Commissioner Tyler Tumminia said in a statement released Wednesday. "Partnering with ESPN+ is a significant step in our history as we continue to grow the sport with a platform that will introduce our new era to a larger audience

with an enhanced standard for how our games will be delivered."

Each of the league's six teams — the Boston Pride, Buffalo Beauts, Connecticut Whale, Metropolitan Riveters, Toronto Six and Minnesota Whitecaps — will play each opponent four times in the regular season. The PHF said the 2021 season produced record digital viewership and engagement as part of its second year in a

streaming partnership with Twitch. "This is historic for us," Tumminia told ESPN. "ESPN is becoming the home of hockey, right? We all wanted to be a part of that." The league's move to ESPN+ comes as the cable sports giant returns to broadcasting NHL games this season.

"The Premier Hockey Federation is an exciting, up-and-coming league that we look forward to presenting to hockey fans

in the U.S. exclusively on ESPN+," said John Lasker, the vice president for digital media programming. "As the top professional women's hockey league in North America, the PHF makes a great addition to our growing lineup of hockey on ESPN+, which now includes NCAA men's and women's hockey, the Kontinental Hockey League from Europe and Asia, and more than 1,000 NHL games this season." □

Fab Four of July acquisitions lead Braves to World Series

By RONALD BLUM

HOUSTON (AP) — Atlanta had just stumbled again, losing its seventh straight attempt to reach .500. "This isn't going to define our season, this series," Braves manager Brian Snitker said that night at New York's Citi Field.

Little did he know.

Two days later, general manager Alex Anthopoulos obtained outfielders Eddie Rosario, Adam Duvall and Jorge Soler along with reliever Richard Rodríguez in four swaps in the hours before the July 30 trade deadline, adding to the acquisition of outfielder Joc Pederson two weeks earlier.

Rosario, Duvall and Pederson combined to drive in 17 of Atlanta's 28 runs in its six-game NL Championship Series win over the defending champion Los Angeles Dodgers. Rosario was selected MVP as the Braves advanced to a World Series matchup against the Houston Astros starting Tuesday night.

Pederson especially has been a pearl of an addition. Even before the Braves tried to earn the team's first World Series championship rings since the Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine, John Smoltz and Chipper Jones club of 1995, he became known for perhaps the most-seen strand of pearls since Jackie O's.

"I just saw the pearls and I was, like, you know what? That looks cool," Pederson said. "I've done the black



Atlanta Braves' Eddie Rosario holds the Most Valuable Player Trophy after winning Game 6 of baseball's National League Championship Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

chain and the gold chain and all those different ones and — I think a lot of other players have. But I don't know, kind of caught my eye. I was, like, you know, those look good."

Anthopoulos, a 44-year-old Canadian hired as general manager in November 2017 and promoted to president of baseball operations last year, had to remake his outfield in mid-season.

Opening day center fielder Cristian Pache injured his right hamstring on May 13 and didn't have another big league at-bat until October. Left fielder Marcell Ozuna broke his left middle and ring fingers with a headfirst slide on May 25,

then was arrested four days later on charges of aggravated assault and hasn't returned. Star right fielder Ronald Acuña Jr. tore his right anterior cruciate ligament on July 10, an injury sidelining him until next year.

Many GMs make midseason additions. Seldom do so many jell.

With the deal for Pederson, Anthopoulos sent the clubhouse a message "that we believe in you," recalled star first baseman Freddie Freeman, the reigning NL MVP.

Anthopoulos had gone to his boss, chairman Terry McGuirk, for permission to spend and lifted payroll from \$136 million on open-

ing day to \$149 million on Aug. 31, still 14th among the 30 teams. The four outfield acquisitions added \$7,743,280, factoring in \$500,000 that Atlanta is receiving from Cleveland this year as part of the Rosario trade.

"Terry McGuirk came to me at the All-Star break and said you got whatever you need to go make this club better. Whatever you need. And we went full-speed ahead," Anthopoulos said.

Atlanta lost at Milwaukee hours after the trade deadline, dropping to 51-54. The Braves were third in the NL East, five games back of the New York Mets, one game behind Philadelphia

and two games in front of Washington.

"The one thing that's fortunate for us is we're playing in the NL East in 2021," Anthopoulos said after the trades. "We're all in it."

Atlanta won five of its next six games to move above .500 for the first time all season on Aug. 8. A nine-game winning streak lifted the Braves into first place on Aug. 15.

"It's two different teams, really, from the first half to the second half, if you really look at it," the reigning NL MVP said. "So we just had little weapons waiting in the wings all over the place and then we unleashed them and here we are sitting in the World Series."

An improbable fourth straight division title was clinched on Sept. 30 with three games to spare. The Braves finished with a 6 1/2-game lead.

"Even teams that don't have great years get on a run. Even the bad teams. We hadn't got on a run yet and we weren't a bad team. We just had a hard time putting everything together for an extended period of the season," Snitker said. "But we were a good team and I just kept thinking, man, our best baseball's ahead of us at some point in time, and then I think Alex helped that out a lot with the acquisitions."

Pederson, 29, was obtained for minor league first baseman Bryce Ball and hit .247 with seven homers and 22 RBIs. □

Djokovic, Medvedev highlight rosters for Davis Cup Finals

LONDON (AP) — Top-ranked Novak Djokovic and U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev headline the rosters announced Monday for the Davis Cup Finals that begin next month.

Djokovic, a 20-time major champion who fell one win short of a calendar-year Grand Slam in 2021, is joined on Serbia's squad by Filip Krajinovic, Dusan

Lajovic, Laslo Djere and Miomir Kekmanovic.

Medvedev, who is ranked No. 2 and claimed his first Grand Slam title by beating Djokovic in the final at Flushing Meadows in September, leads a Russian team that includes No. 6 Andrey Rublev, No. 19 Aslan Karatsev, No. 30 Karen Khachanov and Evgeny Donskoy. Eighteen countries will par-

ticipate in group-stage matches starting Nov. 25 on indoor hard courts in Madrid; Innsbruck, Austria; and Turin, Italy. After quarterfinals in those cities, the semifinals and final will be held in Madrid.

Spain is the reigning champion thanks to its 2019 title; the Davis Cup was called off last year because of the coronavirus pandemic. □



Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, wipes his face during a match against Grigor Dimitrov, of Bulgaria, at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

Analysis: Brady's latest milestone another untouchable one

By ROB MAADDI

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tom Brady's latest milestone is another untouchable one. Brady became the first player to throw 600 career touchdown passes and then tacked on two more in Tampa Bay's 38-3 rout over Chicago on Sunday. Seven Super Bowl rings, 602 TD passes, 81,479 yards passing.

And he's still going strong at age 44.

"Yeah, the numbers, they're staggering and they'll probably never be broken," Buccaneers coach Bruce Arians said. "I say that, but who knows when the next Tom Brady is going to come. They are staggering, but when you watch him practice every single day, you don't see the age."

Brady is on pace to throw a career-best 51 TD passes this season as the defending champions (6-1) aim for a repeat. Even if he called it quits now, 602 seems quite safe.

Consider this: Aaron Rodgers is fifth on the all-time list and trails Brady by 175 TD passes. Rodgers, who turns 38 on Dec. 2, would have to average 35 TD passes per season for five more years after Brady retires to catch him. Ben Roethlisberger (403), Matt Ryan (359) and Matthew Stafford (301) round out the top five among the active QBs. They have no chance.

Russell Wilson is next on the active list with 277 TD passes. He's injured and turns 33 on Nov. 29. Wilson av-



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) prepares to throw his 600th career touchdown pass during the first half of an NFL football game against the Chicago Bears Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

eraged 30 TD passes over his first nine seasons. That wouldn't cut it. He would need to throw 36 per season for nine more years once Brady hangs up his cleats to surpass him. Patrick Mahomes is way behind with 132 TD passes, but he has been so prolific that he could potentially challenge the record if he stays healthy and keeps playing for at least another decade. The 26-year-old Mahomes averaged 38 TD passes his first three seasons as a starter and is on pace to throw 44 this year despite his recent turnover struggles. Mahomes would need to average 38 TDs

for 12 1/2 more years once Brady is finished playing. With passing numbers on the rise across the NFL and an extra game added to the regular season, it's realistic to think single-season records will be broken whether it's Peyton Manning's mark of 5,477 yards or his 55 TDs. But topping Brady's career numbers requires longevity and sustained excellence. Brady's accomplishments are unprecedented in team sports. His teammates throughout his 22 years deserve plenty of credit. Arians made sure to spread some praise around. "I doubt seriously that there

will be another team like the one he was on for all those years and the one he's on now because he has a bunch of individual records in a team sport," Arians said, referring to Brady winning six Super Bowl titles with Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots. "I always harp about it, it's not just Tom, there's 10 other guys out there with him and 11 on defense. That defense he had in New England and the defense he's got here has helped him win a bunch of games — those guys up front keeping him clean." Brady doesn't miss a chance to credit his team-

mates.

"There's nothing about this sport that you do by yourself," Brady said. "It's the ultimate team sport. It challenges you physically, mentally, emotionally, every week, every day of practice. This is not a sport you can just go out there and mail it in. It takes 100% of what you have every single day to go out there and be successful. I'm just grateful to have amazing teammates, coaches. To be able to do it for as long as I have is really an incredible blessing in my life."

Brady set another record Sunday by simply showing up to face the Bears and 22-year-old rookie Justin Fields, making it the largest age gap between starting quarterbacks.

Fields, the 11th overall pick in the NFL draft, had a miserable day. He threw three interceptions and fumbled three times, losing two. Meanwhile, Brady tossed four TD passes on a day he wasn't particularly sharp. He tied a career high with six consecutive incomplete passes at one point right after connecting with Mike Evans for No. 600.

"There's a lot of room to improve on what we're doing, so we're just going to keep trying to get better," Brady said.

It's that mindset of never being satisfied, not even after a 35-point victory, that separates Brady from everyone else.

He's done it all and he's not done doing more. □



Chicago Bears head coach Matt Nagy reacts during the first half of an NFL football game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

Bears coach Nagy says he has tested positive for COVID-19

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — Chicago Bears coach Matt Nagy says he has tested positive for COVID-19. Nagy, who is vaccinated, announced the result during a Zoom call Monday minutes after his usual in-person session was switched.

"I feel pretty good," he said from his car.

Special teams coordinator Chris Tabor will run meet-

ings that Nagy can't conduct virtually.

League rules say vaccinated individuals who are asymptomatic can return to the practice facility once they have two consecutive negative PCR tests taken at least 24 hours apart. If they are symptomatic, they need two negative tests taken at least 24 hours apart and must be symptom-free for 48 hours.

The Bears had four players on the COVID-19 list as of Monday morning, including star linebacker Robert Quinn and veteran tight end Jimmy Graham. Linebacker Caleb Johnson and right tackle Elijah Wilkinson were added to it hours before Sunday's blowout loss at Tampa Bay. Running back Damien Williams was removed from the list on Saturday. □